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HARTFORD DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO 14 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that Curtis MAYO, a.k.a. "Cool City," a.k.a. "Cupcake," 25, of Hartford, was sentenced to fourteen years in federal prison for conspiring to sell both PCP and crack cocaine in Nelton Court.

In a proceeding today before United States District Judge Christopher Droney, MAYO was sentenced to a term of incarceration of 168 months, to be followed by a term of 5 years of supervised release. MAYO pleaded guilty on February 10, 2003, admitting that he conspired with other individuals to distribute significant quantities of liquid PCP, PCP-soaked mint leaves, and crack cocaine in the Nelton Court area of Hartford. The investigation revealed that buyers from as far away as western Connecticut and Springfield, Massachusetts would drive to Nelton Court to purchase the PCP-laced mint leaves produced by MAYO and his co-conspirators.

U.S. Attorney O'Connor indicated that MAYO's conviction was part of "Operation Fresh Breath," a cooperative investigation between the FBI and the Hartford Police that addressed the distribution of drugs in Nelton Court. O'Connor noted that Steven Hines, a.k.a. "Liggy," and Courtney Ashley, a.k.a. "Bun," two of MAYO's co-defendants in the conspiracy to distribute PCP, were previously sentenced to terms of incarceration of 151 months and 135 months, respectively. Michael Ledbetter, a.k.a. "Buck," and Rudolph Otero, who conspired with MAYO to distribute crack cocaine, were sentenced to terms of imprisonment of 70 months and 84 months, respectively. Additional members of MAYO's PCP conspiracy await sentencing.

"'Operation Fresh Breath' represents yet another step in the coordinated approach by which federal, state and local law enforcement authorities are addressing the distribution of illegal drugs in Hartford," U.S. Attorney O'Connor stated. "It is part of a larger and ongoing effort to focus on the problem of drug distribution and related violence in the capital city. The RightFax

U.S. Attorney O'Connor complimented the efforts of the FBI and the Hartford Police in this case.

Assistant United States Attorney Raymond F. Miller, who is a member of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, prosecuted these cases.

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